

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16. These sheets, which include Figs. 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment the specification and abstract are amended to correct minor informalities and make minor clarifications, that are not believed to raise any issues of new matter.

The claims are also amended to clarify certain language therein, it is not believed to raise any issues of new matter.

Replacement Figures 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16 are also submitted herein.

Replacement Figure 1 includes additional labels. Replacement Figure 2 includes additional labels for certain of the elements and further labels the noted steps. Replacement Figure 3 includes additional elements 301b and 301c. Replacement Figure 6 clarifies step ST601 and step ST613. Replacement Figure 10 includes additional labels and labels the steps. Replacement Figure 11 includes additional labels for “Residual Priority k” - “Residual Priority k+4”. Replacement Figure 14 includes additional labelings for “Residual Priority k” - “Residual Priority k+4”. Replacement Figure 15 includes additional labels, including for the noted steps. Replacement Figure 16 now includes the label “(Signaling index)”.

The replacement figures are not believed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM:SNS\la  
I:\ATTY\SNS\290402US-PR.DOC



---

Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599  
Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423